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INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF SHELTER FOR THE HOMELESS
More than just a roof... Join Ontario's challenge



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INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF SHELTER FOR THE HOMELESS

SOME FACTS ABOUT HOMELESSNESS



Around the World

- One quarter of the world's population--more than 1000 million people--lack adequate shelter. And 100 million of these have no shelter at all.

In developing countries...

- In developing countries, half of the population, on average, lives in slums and squatter settlements. Overall, the population living in these conditions is increasing at twice the rate of population in cities, and four times faster than world population.
- In the past 24 hours, more than 50,000 people died from malnutrition and disease, much of it linked to inadequate shelter, water supply and sanitation. Most of them were children.
- In many squatter settlements, it is not uncommon for more than 1,000 people to be dependent on water from a single standpipe. In nearly all cases, people living in such settlements have no access to human waste disposal facilities.
- In Latin America, it is estimated that 20 million children and youth live and sleep in the streets.
- Natural disasters and war also take their toll. The 1986 earthquake in El Salvador left 300,000 homeless, while floods in Bangladesh caused 30,000 people to be without a roof over their heads.
- In South Africa, a squatter settlement outside the city of Cape Town was the site of apartheid demonstrations as a result of which a further 70,000 people were added to the world's total of those without shelter.



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Hon. Alvin Curling, Minister

IYSH Ontario
Provincial Secretariat
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In Developed Countries...

- There are over two million homeless people in the U.S.
- About one-third of the homeless in 25 major U.S. cities are considered to be chronically ill.
- In 1978, New York City spent \$14 million on programs and aid for the homeless. Some 25-50 homeless people die on New York City streets during each of the winter months.
- Up to a half million people in Britain lost their homes during 1985. About 1.2 million are registered on council (public) housing waiting lists.
- In 1978, Britain provided accommodation for 50,000 homeless people under its Housing (Homeless Persons) Act; in 1985, the figure was 100,000 and rising.
- Each night about 25,000 people in London, 20,000 people in Paris, and thousands more in smaller cities must find a place to sleep.
- Squatting, homeless people illegally seizing empty buildings for their housing, has been growing in London, Amsterdam, and West Berlin for the past decade. In London, it is estimated that there are 20,000 such people.

In Canada ...

- In Canada, 20,000 to 40,000 people live on the streets.
- Twenty-five years ago, the average homeless male in Canada was aged between 36 and 44; today he is between 18 and 34.
- Half of all hostel residents in Canada have suffered psychological breakdowns.

In Ontario

- A 1982 study estimated there were 3,400 persons with no fixed address living in Metropolitan Toronto. For all of Ontario, this figure is probably over 10,000. However, this is a conservative estimate: more recent estimates for Metro Toronto range from 5,000 to 20,000 persons without adequate shelter.
- In Ontario, approximately 45 deaths each year are caused by homelessness.
- In Metro Toronto, the largest age group of homeless are between 18 and 24 years old (almost one-third). Many are homeless due to a combination of current economic conditions and the shortage of affordable housing.

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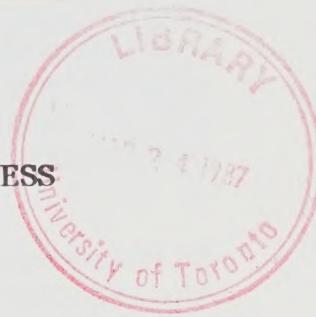


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ONTARIO'S PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF SHELTER FOR HOMELESS



GOALS OF ONTARIO'S PARTICIPATION IN IYSH

The people of Ontario enjoy a level of housing that is among the best in the world. However, the Provincial Government recognizes that the problem of homelessness has not yet been totally overcome. It is for this reason that Ontario is committed to participation in the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless. Four major goals have been identified by the Minister of Housing to guide the Province's participation in IYSH. They are:

1. Within the framework of IYSH, to raise public awareness of the issues surrounding homelessness in Ontario and elsewhere;
2. To encourage and develop grass-roots dialogue, education and participation in IYSH-related activities;
3. To co-ordinate the efforts of Provincial Government Ministries and Agencies in activities supporting IYSH; and
4. In co-operation with the national IYSH focal point, to participate in inter-provincial, federal, and international activities marking IYSH.

OBJECTIVES OF ONTARIO'S PARTICIPATION IN IYSH

The realization of the following objectives will be achieved through a series of initiatives designed to meet the goals the Province of Ontario has identified as being integral to its participation in the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless.

These cover the four broad areas previously outlined -- awareness, dialogue, provincial involvement and national and international activities.

1. PUBLIC AWARENESS

- (a) Ontario aims to make its people aware of 1987 as the International Year of Shelter for Homeless and to increase their understanding of the issues surrounding homelessness, as they exist both in Ontario and elsewhere; and
- (b) To enhance public awareness through highlighting the community-based and government initiatives underway that attempt to deal with the problem of homelessness in this Province.



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2. COMMUNITY DIALOGUE, EDUCATION AND PARTICIPATION

- (a) Ontario intends to increase dialogue and interaction at the local or community level between governments, businesses, churches, private individuals, care providers, and service agencies that would lead to a better understanding of homelessness. It is hoped that this dialogue will generate recommendations on appropriate responses to the problem, identify successful local approaches, and develop partnerships for joint action; and
- (b) Through these measures it also hopes to encourage the development of educational awareness and training programs that would sensitize and enrich the working skills of students, professionals and community workers in dealing with homelessness issues.

3. PROVINCIAL INVOLVEMENT

- (a) Ontario's intent is to generate province-wide input into the development of a public awareness/communications plan that would inform the public of the dimensions of homelessness in Ontario as well as the initiatives being undertaken by government to address the issue; and
- (b) To facilitate and stimulate Provincial participation in community dialogue and education on the issue of homelessness thus activating local and Provincial responses and action.

4. NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

- (a) The Provincial Government is committed to ongoing dialogue with the national IYSH focal point and other federal government departments, with a view of facilitating Ontario's participation in IYSH-related activities; and
- (b) It will also contact other provincial and territorial IYSH focal points, national voluntary organizations involved in IYSH, and through the national IYSH focal point, with foreign nations and international organizations such as the United Nations. This step stimulates a sharing of information and examining opportunities for joint activities designed to address the homelessness issue.

ACHIEVEMENTS OF GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

To achieve the goals and objectives marking the Province's participation in IYSH, the Minister of Housing has established the following:

1. THE MINISTER'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON IYSH

The Minister of Housing has appointed an IYSH Advisory Committee comprising a Chairman and nine members from across the Province who have demonstrated knowledge, interest or experience in dealing with the issues of homelessness.

This Committee is responsible for providing advice and guidance to the Minister on how best the Province can mark its participation in IYSH; communicating the message of IYSH to the people of Ontario; and making recommendations on proposals or programs for longer term, more permanent ways of addressing the homelessness issue.

2. THE IYSH SECRETARIAT

The Ministry of Housing has established a Secretariat to co-ordinate the Province's activities for IYSH. Reporting through the Deputy Minister of Housing to the Minister, the Secretariat's core staff consists of a Co-ordinator and an Associate Co-ordinator.

The Secretariat's mandate is to provide administrative and operational support to the Minister's Advisory Committee; supervise the operation of an Inter-Ministerial Committee on IYSH; develop and implement a public awareness/communications plan; and co-ordinate the Province's participation in IYSH-related activities at the municipal, inter-provincial, federal, and international level.

3. THE INTER-MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE ON IYSH

Chaired by the IYSH Secretariat, the Inter-Ministerial Committee is made up of representatives of those provincial Ministries actively involved in providing services to the homeless.

This Committee is responsible for sharing knowledge, promoting understanding, and disseminating information on available resources that can be applied to IYSH activities; identifying projects which meet the IYSH criteria of serving the needs of the homeless; identifying specific Ministry and government programs or projects that are underway and examining their impact or potential contribution to the aims of IYSH; and co-ordinating overall Provincial Government participation in IYSH.

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Minister's Message on International Year of Shelter For The Homeless

It has been said that a civilization is judged, ultimately, by the way it cares for its least fortunate citizens. And in any community, those are the men, women and children known as the homeless.

Ontario has a moral obligation to those individuals, a commitment to help.

This is not a project to last a year. Using the United Nations resolution declaring 1987 the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless as a catalyst, this should mark the beginning of a permanent, ongoing commitment to address a problem that pervades every one of our communities.

Ontario is a recognized leader in many areas of social and economic development. We must now establish Ontario as a leader in finding creative and constructive solutions to assist the disadvantaged, who often cannot speak for themselves.

Those who have joined us in this challenge know that the provision of housing alone is not the full solution.

To find that solution, we are looking to human needs.

We are examining the full range of services that are required by the homeless. I believe that this is one of the most important initiatives. Working together, we have an opportunity to help.

We must remember as we work that a home is more than just a roof, more than merely bricks and mortar.

We need new ideas and creative solutions; courage and determination. As a society, we need to extend our hand to those who are reaching out for help.

I pledge my full support, and the full support of my ministry to this goal. I urge you to join us in this important task.

Alvin Curling
Alvin Curling
Minister of Housing



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EVENTS CALENDAR

JANUARY 1987

- Announcement of IYSH by Minister of Housing
- Announcement of support to communities and private sector groups seeking to participate in IYSH
- Tender by invitation for IYSH regional workshops
- IYSH logo on Ontario government ministry, agency, board and commission letterhead.

FEBRUARY/MARCH 1987

- Announcement of essay writing and for poster design contest
- Announcement of IYSH community service and recognition awards program
- Launch of IYSH Municipal Awareness Program

APRIL/MAY/JUNE/JULY 1987

- IYSH Regional Workshops
- Announcement of Ontario's sponsorship of overseas housing officials participating in the Canadian Study Program
- Selection of winning high school essays and posters.
- Closing date for applications for provincially funded IYSH projects-June 30.

AUGUST 1987

- Canadian Study Programme - placement of overseas housing officials.

SEPTEMBER 1987

- Canadian Conference on IYSH, Ottawa, Canada
 - o Province of Ontario Workshops
 - o Participation of Ontario-sponsored, overseas housing officials in the Ontario workshops.



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OCTOBER 1987

- World Habitat Day
 - o IYSH Awards Program
- Federal/Provincial meeting of housing officials responsible for IYSH.

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 1987

- IYSH - funded project and program evaluations.

JANUARY/FEBRUARY/MARCH 1988

- Minister's Advisory Committee/IYSH report to Minister recommending actions to reduce homelessness in Ontario, in light of IYSH
- IYSH Secretariat evaluation report and data analysis.

The Minister of Housing and members of his Advisory Committee will be speaking across Ontario throughout the year.

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WORLD HABITAT DAY

In recognition of the problem of homelessness around the world, the United Nations General Assembly has designated the first Monday in October of each year (October 5, 1987) as World Habitat Day. Governments at all levels are encouraged to undertake activities in support of World Habitat Day. The Minister of Housing requests that all Ontario municipalities observe World Habitat Day.

Observance of World Habitat Day can serve three primary objectives:

1. to increase public awareness of the problems related to human settlements;
2. to allow governments an opportunity to focus attention on the efforts they are making in the field;
3. to increase the exchange of information on techniques for dealing with problems associated with human settlements.

UNCHS (United Nations Centre for Human Settlements - Habitat) has provided the following suggestions that may assist you and your municipality in planning activities to celebrate World Habitat Day.

1. Establish a local Habitat Day Committee to organize events
2. Use the mass media to inform the public on human settlement issues as well as to highlight policies and programmes in the field
3. Highlight tangible improvements in the living conditions of the poor and disadvantaged through TV and radio talk shows
4. Identify, publicize and reward self-help initiatives of communities, e.g. making improvements to community centres, schools etc
5. Encourage schools to organize seminars, workshops and student competitions to search for solutions to meet housing needs, e.g. for low-cost housing
6. Encourage research and technical institutions to hold exhibitions and disseminate information, e.g. on improved building materials
7. Encourage private sector organizations and small scale entrepreneurs to hold exhibitions and demonstrate their contributions to human settlements
8. Invite schools to participate in essay and art competitions on human settlement themes
9. Organize painting/poster/photography competitions or video/radio/TV programme competitions on the World Habitat Day theme
10. Supply UNCHS (Habitat) with a brief report on World Habitat Day activities that have been undertaken in order to share ideas and information with other countries.



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For further information on observing World Habitat Day in your municipality,
please call:

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(416) 585-7503

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Reply Card

Individuals and organizations who wish to learn more about how to participate in the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless should call or write to:

IYSH Ontario
Provincial Secretariat
777 Bay Street
Toronto, Ontario
M5G 2E5

(416) 585-7503



To receive specific information on the following IYSH Ontario initiatives, please check the appropriate space and return to the above address.

	<u>FRENCH</u>	<u>ENGLISH</u>
IYSH Project Funds (on-going approvals until June 30, 1987)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Essay and Poster Contest	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
IYSH Regional Workshops	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Canadian Conference on IYSH (Canadian Study Programme)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
IYSH Awards Programme	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

If you have any ideas, comments or questions, please write to us. We would like to hear from you.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____



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WHAT YOU CAN DO



IYSH is not just for governments and large organizations. Anyone or any community group can participate in International Year of Shelter for the Homeless.

You can help by:

- recognizing homeless people as full citizens of your community
- supporting projects for homeless people in your community
- learning about the problem of homelessness and inadequate support services in your community
- identifying or sponsoring potential housing demonstration projects
- contributing ideas, suggestions or your time to resolve homelessness in your community
- participating in your community's World Habitat Day program
- "adopting" a settlement project in a developing country
- organizing lecture series, slide and film shows, exhibitions, seminars or conferences on housing and related issues
- organizing poster or essay competitions in your community
- distributing information materials on the homeless and innovative solutions to homelessness
- publishing information on the homeless in magazines or newspapers.



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If you would like to contribute in any way, or receive further details on the Study Programme or Conference, you're invited to write to: IYSH Conference 1987 Box 1987 Station C Ottawa, Ontario K1Y 4G1

successful local approaches and to develop partnerships for joint action.

3. To co-ordinate the efforts of government ministries and agencies in IYSH related activities.
4. To participate in inter-provincial, federal and international efforts to find solutions to the urgent problems of the homeless.

Ontario's action plan includes:

- Support for community and private sector groups which involve themselves in IYSH initiatives
- Organization of a series of IYSH regional workshops
- An IYSH community service awards program
- Essay and/or poster design contests
- Marking World Habitat Day (October 5, 1987)
- Participation in a Canadian Study Programme to sponsor the participation of housing and development officials from developing countries in Ontario-based study projects

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Help meet the challenge with ideas and suggestions.

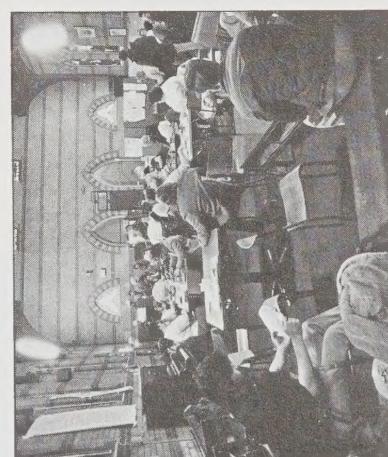
Join a community group which is involved with some aspect of the problem and volunteer whatever expertise you may have and whatever time you can spare.* Help to sponsor a demonstration housing project based on innovative new ideas.

Most of all, understand that the homeless are part of your community.

Please don't turn your back on them.

Take up the challenge – house the homeless.

* For the address of community groups in your neighbourhood or for more information on any aspect of IYSH 1987, write or telephone:
IYSH Ontario
Provincial Secretariat
777 Bay Street
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- Participation in the Canadian Conference on IYSH (September 13-16, 1987) designed to encourage community and consumer groups, governments and the private sector to collaborate in the development of new strategies

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WHAT IS IYSH?

IYSH stands for the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless.

It is a United Nations program designed to focus world attention on a problem which long ago reached crisis proportions and which grows more critical with every passing year. It is both a plea for help and a call for action.

HOW BIG IS THE PROBLEM?

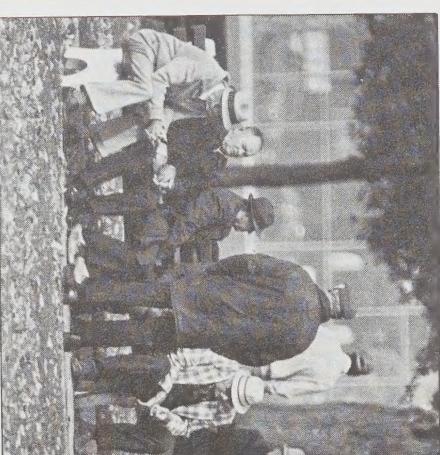
Fact: Last night, about 100 million people around the world slept on side-walks and in doorways, under bridges and in parks. They had nowhere else to go.

Fact: Perhaps another 900 million people struggle to exist in totally inadequate and dangerously unsanitary shelters.

Fact: During the next 24 hours, some 50,000 of those people will die. Most of them will be children.



WHO ARE THESE HOMELESS CANADIANS?



They are Canadians who cannot afford a place to live.

They can be hard to identify.

They don't wear signs on their backs. And few of them beg at street corners.

The fastest-growing segment of Ontario's homeless population is families (often single-parent families).

Some line up at food banks and some are too proud.

Some wander from shelter to emergency shelter while others prefer the anonymity of vacant and abandoned buildings.

Some are old and some are distressingly young.

Many are children.

Some have died.

A 1982 study counted 3,400 homeless people in Metro Toronto alone. It's estimated that there are well over 10,000 scattered throughout the province.

Take up the challenge.

Not even Canada, not even Ontario.

Take up the challenge.

IS THIS AN APPEAL FOR MONEY?

No.

For understanding, for support, for practical help.

For your ideas.

The IYSH program recognizes that many of the world's poor and disadvantaged are ready and, for the most part, able to solve their own shelter problems. Others require more direct assistance.

The program is specifically designed to stimulate innovative thinking and to encourage an exchange of information within and between nations.

The money will come later.



HOW IS THE GOVERNMENT OF ONTARIO INVOLVED IN IYSH?

The Government of Ontario has

four major goals to meet the challenge:

1. To increase public awareness of the problem of homelessness both within the province and in other parts of the world.
2. To encourage dialogue between government, business, religious organizations, private individuals, care providers and service agencies in order to generate recommendations, to identify



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